

U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney

Eastern District of Virginia

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PRESS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release
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Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced that Kevin M. Hawkins, 37 years old, of Washington D.C., pled guilty today in United States District Court in Alexandria to bribery of a public official. Hawkins accepted over \$47,000 in bribes for his participation in a scheme to use Department of Defense IMPAC (International Merchant Purchase Agreement Card) charge cards to make fictitious purchases of maintenance supplies worth between \$200,000 and \$400,000 for the Pentagon. Hawkins was a civilian employee of the Department of Defense in the Pentagon Building Maintenance Office from 1989 until 2003. Since 1998, Hawkins was a maintenance work inspector at the Pentagon. Hawkins faces a maximum sentence of fifteen years imprisonment, a fine of \$250,000 and full restitution. United States District Judge Gerald Bruce Lee set sentencing for April 16, 2004.

From May 1999 through April 2002, Hawkins was responsible for the approval, review and reconciliation of invoices for purchases of building and maintenance supplies for the Pentagon charged to government purchase cards. Hawkins prepared fraudulent purchase orders, and approved fraudulent purchase order requests made by others, for goods which Hawkins knew were not delivered to the United States. In return, Hawkins received money on at least 62 different occasions from a vendor doing business with the United States. The payments were

usually in the form of cash and checks, but on two occasions. The vendor paid the rent on Hawkins' residence. Hawkins received \$7,000 of the bribe by having money paid directly to a motorcycle dealer for the purchase of a motorcycle he received and which was registered and titled in his name. Hawkins received at least \$47,000 in money and property as a result of this continuing bribe. As a result of this scheme, the losses to the Department of Defense were between \$200,000 and \$400,000 from the fraudulent and fictitious purchases.

This case is part of a continuing effort to prosecute IMPAC charge card fraud and abuse within the Department of Defense. The case was investigated by the United States Attorney's Office, and the Defense Criminal Investigative Service, and prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert C. Erickson.